

# IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**Applicants** 

Gregory P. Dittmer et al.

Application No.

10/722,808

Confirmation No.: 8187

Filed

November 26, 2003

For

METHODS AND CIRCUITS FOR PROGRAMMABLE

**CURRENT LIMIT PROTECTION** 

Group Art Unit

2838

Examiner

Jeffrey L. Sterrett

## **EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATION**

"Express Mail" Number <u>EV621258026US</u>
Date of Deposit <u>December 12, 2005</u>

I hereby certify that this paper/fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Honorable Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, ATTN: Mail Stop Issue Fee, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Lily Jiang

Enclosures:

Transmittal Letter in Duplicate;

Issue Fee Transmittal Form in Duplicate

Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance

Supplemental IDS Form PTO/SB/08

Eleven (11) References

Return Postcard

Rev. 12/04

**PATENTS** 

Modified PTO 1083

For Other Than A Small Entity

Attorney Docket No. LT-167

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Mail Stop Issue Fee

Hon. Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

:

### TRANSMITTAL LETTER

### Sir:

Transmitted herewith:  a Preliminary Amendment;  X Issue Fee Transmittal;  Supplemental Information Disclosure;  Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance;  a Supplemental Declaration;  a Power of Attorney;  an Associate Power of Attorney; to be filed in the above-identified patent application.
FEE FOR ADDITIONAL CLAIMS AND/OR PAGES

X A fee for additional claims or pages is not required.

A fee for additional claims is required.

The additional fee has been calculated as shown below:

	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	NU PF	GHEST JMBER REVIOUSLY AID FOR		PRESI EXTR		RATE		ADI	DITIONAL
TOTAL CLAIMS			*	=	0	х	\$50	=	\$	.00
INDEPENDENT					··	. <u> </u>	<del></del>			
CLAIMS		-	* *	=	0	х	\$200	=	\$	.00
FIRST PRESENTAT	ION OF A		<u></u>						<del>-</del>	<del></del>
MULTIPLE DEPEND	ENT CLAIM					+	\$360	=	\$	.00
* If less than ** If less than	20, insert 2	0.	-			то	TAL	•	\$	.00

	As a result of the amendment submitted herewith, this application now includes excess pages beyond those previously paid for. The number of additional groups of 50 excess pages resulting from this amendment is $x $250 = $$
	A check in the amount of \$ in payment of the fee for additional claims and/or pages is transmitted herewith.
X	The Director is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 in connection with the paper(s) transmitted herewith, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. $06-1075$ (Order No. $002447-0228$ ). A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is transmitted herewith.
	Please charge \$ to Deposit Account No. 06-1075 in payment of the fee for additional claims. A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is transmitted herewith.
EXTEN	SION FEE
	The following extension fee is applicable to the Response filed herewith: $\  \  \  \  \  \  \  \  \  \  \  \  \ $
	A check in the amount of $\square$ \$120.00 $\square$ \$450.00 $\square$ \$1,020.00 $\square$ \$1,590.00 $\square$ \$2,160.00 in payment of the extension fee is transmitted herewith.
X	The Director is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional extension fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 in connection with the paper(s) transmitted herewith, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 06-1075 (Order No. 002447-0228). A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is transmitted herewith.
	Please charge the $\square$ \$120.00 $\square$ \$450.00 $\square$ \$1,020.00 $\square$ \$1,590.00 $\square$ \$2,160.00 extension fee to Deposit Account No. 06-1075. A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is transmitted herewith.
	Chi-Hsin Chang Registration No. 52,717 Attorney for Applicants
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# PATENTS Attorney Docket No. LT-167

### IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

### PATENT APPLICATION

Applicant : Dittmer et al.

Application No.: 10/722,808 Confirmation No.: 8187

Filed: November 26, 2003

For : Methods and Circuits for Programmable

Current Limit Protection

Group Art Unit : 2838

Examiner : Jeffrey L. Sterrett

Palo Alto, California December 12, 2005

Mail Box Issue Fee

Hon. Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.104(e)

AND

RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S COMMENTS ON APPLICANTS' INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS

Sir:

# I. Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance

The above-identified patent application was allowed on September 12, 2005. The Notice of Allowability included a

Statement of Reasons for Allowance (hereinafter "the Statement"). The Statement states:

"The claimed invention of a power converter current limit circuit is found to be allowable over the prior art since a power converter current limit circuit comprising a steady state current limit circuit that reduces an average current value through an inductor in the power converter to a steady state threshold during a transient phase and regulate the average inductor current value to the steady state threshold responsive to an overcurrent condition in addition to comprising a cycle by cycle current limit circuit that reduces instantaneous inductor current after the instantaneous inductor current equals or exceeds a maximum threshold during the transient phase was not found to be singularly or collectively taught by the prior art."

(Notice of Allowability, page 3)

While applicants appreciate the allowance of this application, applicants note that the Statement does not address the claims individually. The Statement also does not use the specific wording of the claims. For example, while the Statement recites that "a steady state current limit circuit ... regulate[s] the average inductor current value to the steady state threshold ...," claim 1 recites that the "steady-state current limit circuit ... regulates average inductor current value approximately at the steady-state threshold ...." Similarly, claim 18 recites that the "steady-state current limit circuit ... regulates output current approximately at the steady-state threshold ...." Indeed, none of the claims after

claim 18 expressly recite a steady-state current limit circuit or a cycle-by-cycle current limit circuit. The Statement also recites additional features not expressly recited in each of the allowed claims. Accordingly, the allowable subject matter for any particular claim can only be found from the language of that particular claim.

# II. Response to Examiner's Comments on Applicants' Information Disclosure Statements

In the Notice of Allowability dated September 12, 2005, the Examiner indicated that he could not locate some of the references submitted by applicants with the information disclosure statements submitted on August 30, 2004 and September 20, 2004. Accordingly, applicants resubmit copies of those references in the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement that accompanies this paper.

Also, in the September 20, 2004 information disclosure statement, applicants identified the following four references:

5,731,694	03-24-1998	Wilcox et al.
5,994,885	11-30-1999	Wilcox et al.
6,304,066	10-16-2001	Wilcox et al.
6,580,258	06-17-2003	Wilcox et al.

The Notice of Allowability stated that the information disclosure statements were submitted on September 1, 2004 and September 22, 2004. However, applicants mailed the stated documents on August 30, 2004 and September 20, 2004 pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.8.

Due to inadvertent error on applicants' part, applicants unintentionally left these references off of the FORM PTO-1449 accompanying the September 20, 2004 information disclosure statement. However, applicants had identified two of these four references (i.e., U.S. Patent Nos. 5,731,694 and 5,994,885) previously in the August 30, 2004 information disclosure statement and accompanying FORM PTO-1449.

Accordingly, applicants resubmit U.S. Patent Nos. 6,304,066 and 6,580,258 for the Examiner's consideration in the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement accompanying this paper.

Applicants apologize for the error and any inconvenience this has caused.

Applicants invite the Examiner to contact applicants' representatives if the Examiner has any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

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